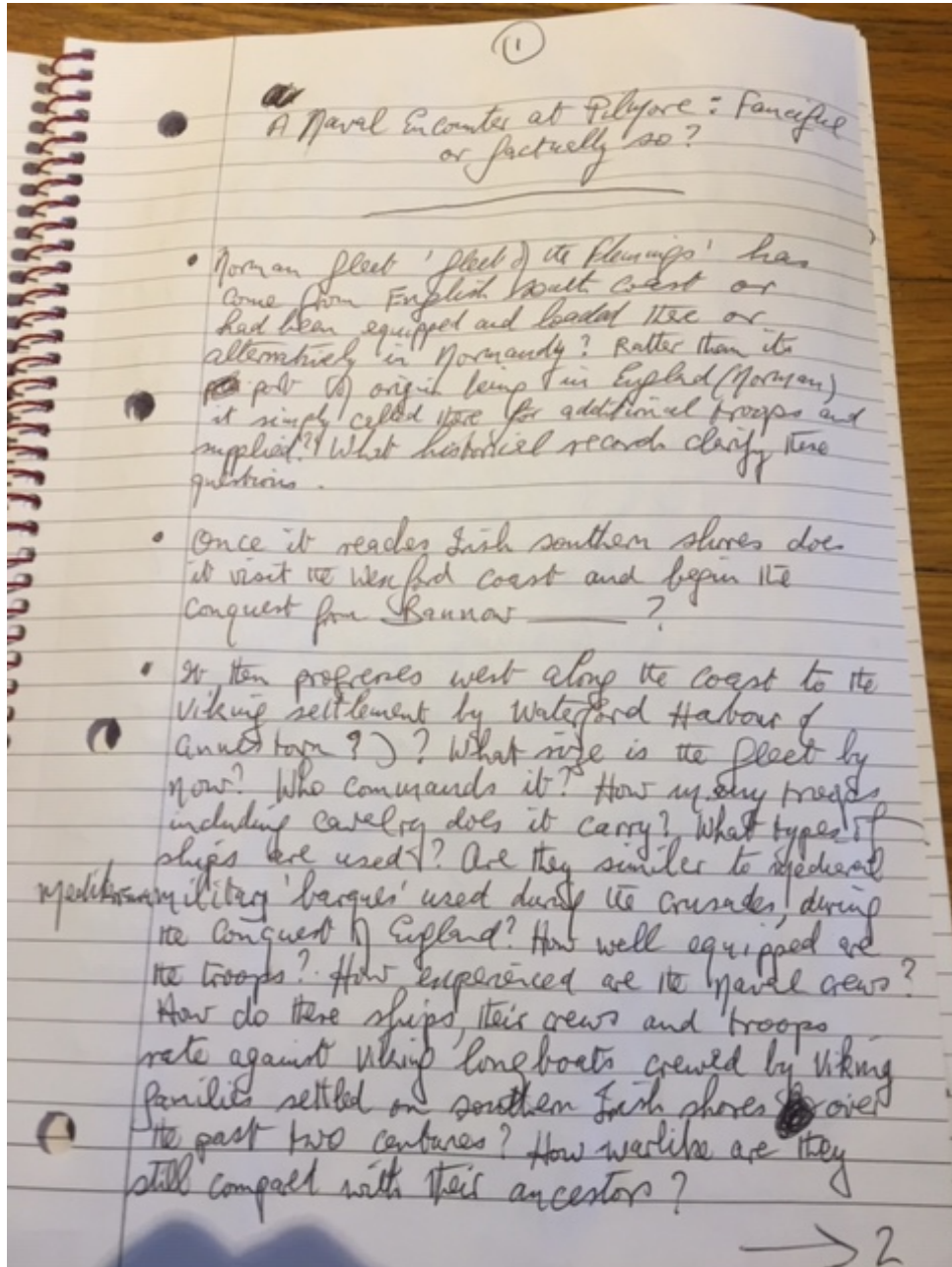


# A Viking versus Norman Naval Encounter at Pilmore Harbour, Near Youghal, Co. Cork.



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- How unified are they? How galvanized are they if called upon to defend Irish tribal/clan shorelines? Who takes command? If no one does ~~is~~ in their fleet just an amalgamation of ships and crews from Viking coastal settlements along the South Western coast, resulting in no central command or strategy? How inferior is their ship technology compared to the Norman fleet? How well equipped both technologically and experientially are the Munster Vikings (Ostmen) to confront a large well equipped naval force? Are they just farmers and fishermen and small scale merchants coming together to confront an immediate threat to their homes, lands and lives? Is this their ultimate reason for engaging the Norman conquest fleet led by Adam de Hereford?

- If the South Munster Vikings had a strategy was it to blockade the entrance to Pilgore Harbour? Where did the ships in their fleet come from? Did they come from the West Cork coast, from the Old Head of Kinsale from the Corrach' settlements (now Cork city's old core), from Doonacumacillie, from Power Head, from the Pilgore area and settlements there, from Helwick Head and Duncarvan Bay? In total how many ships gathered? What was the total number of men? Was it larger than the 100 pirate ships under an English captain named Ward who blockaded the entrance to Cork Harbour in the early 1100 to stop merchant ships from Cork city (frequently

→ 3

(3)

→ Dutch from Leining, over 1,000 men were carried in Ward's 100 ships.

• If the Corrach (old Cork city core), its Viking (Norwegian + Danish) settlements on the long ridge (either side of the marshland (Corrach)) sent out ships, how many were from the Norwegian settlement, how many from the Danish settlement? It was a MacCarthy lord (MacCarthy) at Sean Dún (old fortress) on the ridge at the northern side of the Corrach who sent about 30 ships from the Northmen (Ostmen) settlement to defend against a Norman fleet near Youghal. Did they join other Viking ships and was the intention to blockade Pilgrims' entrance or to engage in an open sea battle with the probably superior Norman fleet, or both?

• Why was the son of a Viking named Turgesius from the Cork (Corrach) Vikings given command by the MacCarthy lord of Sean Dún (Shandon)? Was he already a chosen leader among the occupants of the settlement by the North ridge? The Kila River cuts through this ridge and Sean Dún was at a cist on the ridge overlooking where the river cuts through to join the River Lee. On the northern side of the ridge was a large 'pool' of water, a large body of water in a land depression. This came to be known as the Black Pool. Local folk tradition associates the area with 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Century mills

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→ 4





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→ this mean? After an initial skirmish on the open sea did they decide there was no contest against the Norman fleet? Did those who might have blocked Pilyore come to an agreement with the Norman commander? Did the MacCarthy agree to terms and thereby secure his coastal settlement becoming lord of a local 'vill' i.e. Henry II of England who in the case of the conquest of the Cork Viking settlements subsequently would set aside the 'Cantred' of the Cork Ostmen for himself rather his knights De Lapan and Fitz Stephen acquire them as part of their conquest territories in the Cork County locality?

- If a Viking blockade at Pilyore was lifted and the Norman fleet allowed to enter, then how did the Norman settlement of the harbour area progress? Was an existing dock, or wooden jetty used initially; one of Viking origin or of domestic origin? Did this become a place known, because of Norman French pronunciation of a Viking Norwegian word DEKKE as 'Le Duc'? In a big harbour, to become vibrant with the imports, exports and other activities of settlers from abroad, with generators and supplies, was some time in the form of a 'lighthouse' or 'beacon place' necessary to identify the docking/berthing area?

English?  
Norman  
French?  
Frisian?

- At the point of the Harbour where the Wexperagh

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(6)

River meets the Dissour at the point where the way again veers to a point some miles away from the shoreline of the harbour did the first Norman settlers ~~build~~ erect Inchiquin Castle with a bailey around it? Inchiquin 'Castle' is a circular 'keep' built in masonry. Inland of. Shana Golden, Co. Limerick, Norman settlers built 'Motte-and-Bailey' timber ~~castles~~ and earthwork 'castles' often on ridges. Dunishy near Macroom, Co. Louth, appears to be one of them. It has a very large unusual rock-cut souterrain and is associated (to me at least) with Conqueror Norman Knight Milo de Cogan. Once a land area was settled it had 'castle', village (vill), parish church and agricultural lands. In some places the 'Motte' part of the castle had its timber hall replaced by a circular keep built in masonry. The 'Motte' was a high place, a mound overlooking the garrison/vill area enclosed by the Bailey wall or palisade. A short distance to the north west of Inchiquin Castle lies Buzges (an Bhuigis - the burgh, the burh, the burgh etc) townland. Was this a village under the control of Inchiquin Castle, the castle within a few hundred metres of the 'Le Duc'? On the western side of Pilyore between Ballinaloda and Knockadoon there is a T-shaped bank & ditch earthwork in a field above the road, close to the

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(7)

top of the ridge. It faces out over the harbour. Some scholars have interpreted the site as a Norman moated farmstead, a grange. Is that what it is? It is in Kilmacdonagh civil parish i.e. the cell of the son of Donagh. Was there a significant monastic presence at Pilmoyre prior to Vikings and Normans?

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